

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>VII. NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
A. PHYSICAL RESOURCES.....	35
1. Soils.....	35
2. Water Resources.....	37
3. Biotic Resources.....	41
a. Terrestrial Communities.....	41
b. Aquatic Communities.....	45
4. Rare and Unique Natural Areas .....	47
B. JURISDICTIONAL AREAS .....	47
1. Wetland Descriptions .....	48
2. Jurisdictional Streams Descriptions .....	48
3. Wetland and Stream Impacts .....	48
C. ACIDIC (HOT ) ROCK.....	50
1. Hot Rock Assements to Date .....	50
2. Project Impact to Acidic Rock .....	52
3. Treatment and Disposal Methods .....	52
D. WINTER SALTING PROTOCOL.....	53
E. PERMITTING AND MITIGATION .....	53
1. Permits and Certifications Required .....	53
2. Mitigation Basis.....	54
3. Mitigation Evaluation .....	55
F. PROTECTED SPECIES ISSUES.....	55
1. Federal Protected Species .....	55
2. Federal Species of Concern.....	62
3. State Protected Species .....	64
4. Invasive Species.....	65
<b>VIII. COMMENTS AND COORDINATION .....</b>	<b>65</b>
A. COMMENTS SOLICITED.....	65
B. NEPA/SECTION 404 MERGER PROCESS .....	66
C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.....	66
<b>IX. BASIS FOR STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>66</b>